

Message Text

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47

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 SS-15 ISO-00 SIG-01 SSO-00

USIE-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SAM-01

OMB-01 DHA-02 AID-05 IGA-02 AGR-05 AGRE-00 EB-07

TRSE-00 CCO-00 /108 R

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P: PHABIB (SUBSTANCE)

S/S: MR. BRIDGES

NEA/P: OJONES

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O 231714Z SEP 76 ZFF5

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
USMISSION SINAI IMMEDIATE
USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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ZFF5 SECRETARY AIRCRAFT AND SECRETARY ONLY

E.O. 11652: ADS DECON UPON RECEIPT
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, US
SUBJECT: USG STATEMENT ON LEBANON

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT SARKIS OF LEBANON. IT IS BEING ISSUED BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING ON SEPTEMBER 23. ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD TRANSMIT TEXT TO APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE UNITED STATES IS CONVINCED THAT THE OCCASION OF THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW PRESIDENT OF LEBANON OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY WHICH MUST NOT BE LOST TO BRING AN END TO THE FIGHTING AND TO BEGIN REBUILDING NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. IT WILL BE ESSENTIAL FOR ALL PARTIES IN LEBANON TO SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN THE AUTHORITY OF LEBANON'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEW PRESIDENT ELECTED BY LEGITIMATE PROCESSES SO THAT ALL LEBANESE MAY PROMPTLY BEGIN THEIR RETURN TO PRODUCTIVE LIFE.

THE VIOLENCE AND DESTRUCTION IN LEBANON HAVE GONE ON FAR TOO LONG. THE COSTS IN HUMAN SUFFERING HAVE BEEN FAR TOO HIGH. IT IS CLEAR THAT NO ONE CAN GAIN FROM CONTINUED FIGHTING: COUNTLESS MORE MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN WILL LOSE LIVES, PROPERTY, AND HOPE FOR THE FUTURE. IT IS A TIME FOR

MAGNANIMITY, RESTRAINT, AND COMPROMISE.

THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT A SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND THAT WILL PRESERVE THE COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND NATIONAL UNITY. SOLUTIONS BASED ON THE PARTITION OF LEBANON ARE INVITATIONS TO FURTHER STRIFE AND INSTABILITY. THE STATES SO CREATED WOULD NOT BE VIABLE AND WOULD INVITE EXTERNAL INTERVENTION.

WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE PRINCIPLES FOR A POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION AMONG THE LEBANESE PARTIES ENUNCIATED LAST JANUARY AND FEBRUARY PROVIDE A BASIS FOR INSTITUTIONS THAT WILL MEET THE NEEDS OF THE LEBANESE PEOPLE AND NATION. WE HOPE THAT PRESIDENT SARKIS WILL BE ABLE TO BRING HIS COUNTRYMEN TO THE ROUNDTABLE TALKS HE HAS PROPOSED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION AND REBUILDING CAN BEGIN.

THE MAJOR OBJECTIVE IN NEGOTIATING A SOLUTION WILL BE TO PRESERVE A UNITED COUNTRY, LED BY A CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL ASSURE SECURITY AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY. THE PRINCIPLES PROPOSED IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY WERE DESIGNED TO GIVE PRACTICAL POLITICAL EXPRESSION TO THE CONCEPT THAT THERE SHOULD BE A PARTNERSHIP OF EQUALS IN A REUNITED LEBANON. IN OUR VIEW, THIS CALLS FOR POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL ADJUSTMENTS THAT ALL LEBANESE WILL PERCEIVE AS FAIR AND EQUITABLE. IT PRESUPPOSES THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE AT ITS DISPOSAL SECURITY FORCES LOYAL TO IT WHICH CAN RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN THE AUTHORITY AND ABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN DOMESTIC ORDER. AND IT WILL REQUIRE THAT THE PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON LIVE IN PEACE WITH THEIR LEBANESE HOSTS AND NEIGHBORS, WITHOUT CHALLENGING THE AUTHORITY OF A CENTRAL LEBANESE ADMINISTRATION.

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THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE AREA AND THE ARAB LEAGUE ARE IN A POSITION, EACH IN ITS OWN WAY, TO MAKE CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO A POLITICAL SOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT. CONTINUATION OF THE FIGHTING CANNOT SERVE THEIR INTERESTS. PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND INTERNATIONAL STABILITY WILL BE IN JEOPARDY AS LONG AS THE FIGHTING CONTINUES. AN END TO THE FIGHTING IN TURN WOULD CREATE CONDITIONS MORE CONDUCTIVE TO A RESUMPTION OF THE SEARCH FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE BROADER MIDDLE EAST QUESTION, WHICH WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CONCERNS OF THE STATES OF THE AREA FOR THEIR SECURITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, AS WELL AS THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

WE ARE PREPARED TO HELP TO BRING AN END TO THE FIGHTING

IN LEBANON AND TO ACHIEVE A POLITICAL SOLUTION. THE
INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES LIE IN ALLEVIATION OF

HUMAN SUFFERING, IN THE RESTORATION OF UNITY AND STABILITY
BASED ON JUSTICE IN LEBANON, AND IN THE REDUCTION OF
TENSION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE AMONG THE NATIONS
OF THE MIDDLE EAST. WE WILL BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT OR
UNDERTAKE ANY DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE REQUESTED BY THE
PARTIES.

WE WILL CONTINUE OUR HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS WHICH ALREADY
AMOUNT TO MORE THAN \$10 MILLION IN HOSPITAL AND OTHER
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AND FOODSTUFFS DISTRIBUTED
AS FAIRLY AS POSSIBLE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE LINES. WE
WILL DO THIS AND MORE AS NECESSARY. WE ARE CONSIDERING
WAYS OF SHIPPING SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF WHEAT UNDER
PUBLIC LAW 480.

WE WILL ALSO PLAY OUR PART, AFTER A SETTLEMENT IS ACHIEVED,
IN HELPING PRESIDENT SARKIS AND HIS GOVERNMENT REBUILD
LEBANESE INSTITUTIONS AND THE LEBANESE ECONOMY. WE HAVE
INVITED HIM TO SEND A PERSONAL ENVOY TO WASHINGTON AS
SOON AS HE CONSIDERS IT APPROPRIATE IN ORDER TO DISCUSS
SPECIFIC WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN BE HELPFUL. WE HAVE SOUGHT
FROM THE CONGRESS AN APPROPRIATION OF \$20 MILLION TO BEGIN
THE PROCESS.

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THIS IS A TIME OF OPPORTUNITY AND HOPE FOR A SUFFERING
PEOPLE IN AN AREA ALREADY TOO LONG DEVASTATED BY WAR.
THE UNITED STATES SHARES THE CONVICTION THAT THIS OPPOR-
TUNITY MUST NOT BE LOST. END TEXT. ROBINSON

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